



VICE-PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

HON. THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The Logical Republican Candidate for the Presidency in 1904—His Status as a Statesman, Soldier and Leader.

Some Western paper recently asked "Whether it is to be Teddy or Freddy in 1904?" The Freddy referred to is the paper soldier who lately distinguished himself by capturing the Philippine leader by an act of perfidy and treachery which fortunately for the honor of the American soldier is not a frequent occurrence. If "Freddy" permits the Presidential bee to find lodgment in his Havelock as the result of his exploit in capturing Aguinaldo, by a trick as despicable as any that ever disgraced the men who wear the blue, he will discover a vast difference between the view which officialdom takes of his performance and the masses who make officialdom possible. Funston as a Presidential possibility is a decided impossibility.

The logical candidate for President of the United States in 1904 is Theodore Roosevelt of New York. He is a soldier and a statesman of whom not only New Yorkers, but men of all sections and all races who know him either personally or by reputation are proud. As a soldier in the Spanish-American war he always put up a square fight, always was found at his post of duty, and always did his full share of whatever work was before him. He won the good will and the friendship of every man in his command in Cuba, because of his fairness, his humanity, his solicitude for their welfare when sick or wounded. True he was not infallible. What man is? He made mistakes, what man hasn't? The hullabaloo raised by the newspapers because of certain alleged statements made by him respecting the valor of the colored troops at San Juan was done with the desire to defeat his ambition when he ran for Governor of New York, by appealing to the prejudices of the Negro voters of the State. The same contemptible methods were resorted to when he became a candidate for the Vice-Presidency.

It was only necessary for those familiar with all the facts of the incident at San Juan to explain to Col. Roose-

velt the real circumstances in the case to draw forth from him the manly statement that he had been entirely misled in the matter, and he withdrew the offensive words as only a brave man and a gentleman could do in such circumstances. His public utterances with regard to the value of the Negro soldier as a fighter, have gone into history and they were as strong as human language could make them. He has never lost an opportunity (and we have followed him closely) to say a friendly word or do a kindly deed for the Negro citizen and the Negro soldier. He is a gentleman to the manor born and there is not in his whole being any of the elements of the demagogue or the trickster. His candor is real, not assumed and his honesty is recognized and appreciated wherever he is known. He is a typical gentleman in politics who says what he means, and means what he says. Those who have studied him have discovered that he has the courage of his convictions and the ability to state them in unmistakable English. He did it as Civil Service Commissioner, as Police Commissioner of New York, as Governor of New York, and he will be no less diffident as Vice-President of the United States.

A man of courage is always full of faith. We like a courageous man but we love to hate a trimmer and a demagogue. Mr. Roosevelt's convictions are uttered with a sincerity and earnestness which beget for him the respect of those who cannot always agree with him and the admiration of those who have unlimited confidence in his judgment and discernment. In the few years in which he has been in public life he has demonstrated abilities for leadership which few men at his age possess. As Governor of New York his administration was clean, business-like and thorough, and so well and accurately did he perform the exacting duties of this high office that his reelection for a second term was a foregone conclusion. But he had outgrown the limits of his State and so answering the call of his party like a loyal republican he yielded to the wishes of his countrymen and became its candidate for the Vice-President.

The people know a man when they see one—and Theodore is every inch of

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him a MAN. He has entered into a larger sphere of influence and usefulness and will make his mark as Vice-President of the United States, but in doing so he will not resort to the security tricks and methods of self-seeking political demagogues who play to the galleries for effect and applause. He will be Theodore Roosevelt, the honest, candid hater of sham and humbug, the friend of every man who is a friend to himself. He comes by his republicanism honestly. His father was a working republican in New York in the old days, and a good one, the friend of the old soldier and of the Negro, a christian gentleman, an upright citizen and a loyal supporter of the administration of the immortal Lincoln.

Theodore Roosevelt was his political residuary legatee and he has developed those traits of character which made his father one of the leading republicans of the Empire State. He has the equipment mentally and politically for the Presidential office and he has the confidence of his fellow citizens throughout the Union, which is an important item. Courage of the sort that Mr. Roosevelt displays whenever he has any thing to do or say is one of the greatest assets in the outfit of a coming man—and that he is the coming man no one who reads the signs of the times will dispute. His popularity with the plain people—his kindness of heart, his simplicity of manner, and his knowledge of human nature are well known traits of character. He is blunt of speech but behind it is a tender, sympathetic heart. Few public men are able or willing to put themselves in other men's places. Overambition has killed many an ambitious politician. Mr. Roosevelt is cautious but never over cautious. He knows men, and his keen, sharp eye can always detect the friends and fakirs who attempt to play on his sympathies. No worthy man has ever been turned down by

him or ever will be. As we have said, he is not infallible because he is human. We think so well of his humanity, his broadness of mind, his generosity and his fine abilities that we are led to the conclusion that he will be the winner in 1904 unless a miracle interferes, or he declines to stand for the nomination. He is unquestionably the logical candidate for the Presidency in 1904, and we leave it to experienced and practical politicians to say whether we have not named the man ordained by destiny to lead the republican party to victory four years hence.

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